the agreement on Agriculture are mandated with effect from 1.1.2000.

(b) There does not appear to be divergence in perception and interests between various countries in the agriculture sector based on their respective state of overall developments but such a divergence in their perceptions is due to huge variance in the quantum of overall support given by them to their respective agriculture sectors.

(c) India's interests will be safeguarded and strongly projected.

(d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry had commissioned a detailed study on the subject "The Uruguay Round Agreement and Indian Agriculture: Strategic Issues for the future." Ministry of Agriculture has also got stuthes conducted through Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad on related topics. A process of consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, other connected Ministries, State Governments, and with political parties, has also been initiated and the inputs received in the consultation process and through other channels including the Study Reports, would be fully made use of in the forthcoming negotiations to protect the interests of our country.

Time Taken for Deciding Anti-Dumping Duties Cases

1835. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average time taken by Government to decide about anti-dumping duties cases after the same is initiated; and

(b) how does it compare with other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the anti-dumping provisions the time allowed for the investigations and submission of final findings is one year from the date of initiation of the investigation except in special circumstances, when this time can be extended by 6 months with the approval of the Central Government. Preliminary findings are, however, finalised in 4-5 months.

(b) The time taken in EU is 7-8 months on an average for completing preliminary investigations and imposing anti-dumping duty.

The time taken in some other countries, as per the Annual Report, 1998, of WTO is given below:

s. No.	Name of the Country	Average duration in days*
1	Austrialia	150
2	New Zealand	166
3	South Africa	379
4	Brazil	391
5	Mexico	498

*Average days between initiation and imposition of provisional measures.

Projects cleared in 1998-99

1836. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign technical and financial projects have been cleared in 1998-99;

(b) the details of the projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that 90 percent of the projects goes to Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether it would not lead to another spate of regional imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Sir, 564 technical and 1267 financial foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals have been approved during April, 1998 to March, 1999. The details of the FDI proposals, including technical collaborations approved are incorporated in Monthly SIA newsletters brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which are widely circulated including the Library of the House.

(c) No, Sir.